





Murders Dying Speeches &c  
Date as the Note & Letter  
low onds the Bottom



A True and Perfect  
RELATION

OF THAT

Execrable & Horrid

FACT,

Committed in *White-Lyon-Yard*, in *Nortonfolgate*,  
near the *Spittle*, by some Malicious, Diabolical-sperited  
Persons, for the

POYSONING

The whole Neighbourhood of People dwelling  
there, by throwing *Ratsbane* into a Cauldron of Beefe-Broath  
which was sold out to a great number of poor Families and Labouring Peo-  
ple, for themselves and their Children; at the House of Mr. *Emson*,  
Vicualler; and the sad Condition they now lye languishing in by  
means of the said *P O Y S O N*.

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*Published to prevent false Reports.*

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L O N D O N,  
Printed for N. D. in *Little Brittain*, 1674.

WILLIAM

of the County of ...

...

POISONING

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...

WILLIAM  
of the County of ...  
...

THE NEWBERRY  
LIBRARY





# A TRUE RELATION

O F

A Horrid Fact Committed in *White-Lyon-Yard*,  
near *Nortonfolgate*, &c.

**O**N *Thursday* last, being the 13<sup>th</sup>. of this Instant *August*, between 9 and 10 of the Clock in the Forenoon, it happened that in the House of Mr. *Emson* a Victualler, who liveth in *White-Lyon-Yard* in *Norton-folgate*, near the *Spittle*, a place where many poor Weavers and Throsters did buy Broath for their Breakfast, at which time of 9 a Clock in the Morning, there came several to the house to eat their Messes of Broath, according to their usual manner; and many others that had Families did send at the same time for Broath, both for themselves and Household; the persons accordingly eating their Broath, the most of them fell immediately Vomitting, others flung themselves on the ground, some on the Beds, others upon Stools and Chairs, horribly crying out and roaring, by reason of a most sudden torture and pain in their Bowels and Stomacks, being many of them in a Room together, in the aforesaid Victuallers House; others, had sent for it to the Houses where they were at work who had the same operation of it upon them, to the Amazement of all about them: Many that had but newly received the Broath, perceiving the desperate and deplorable case that those were in that had eaten of it, & presently suspecting that the Broath must needs be the occasion of it, following the good old Proverb, *to beware of others harms*, in great fright flung away Broath, Dishes and all: The Victuallers Family, *viz.* his Wife and Children are in the same Condition, with a number of other poor Ladds that Lodg there with other Weavers thereabouts, and other Families, who all lye languishing, and in great hazard of their Lives: A dreadful and sad spectacle it was, to see some bitterly Crying, others Vomitting, others Groaning, with a high distempered Pulse, and an exceeding great Drought, perpetually crying out for Drink, enough to melt the most obdurate heart, especially considering some of those poor Families have not enough whole to look after the Sick.

Upon the first out-cry of this sad Disaster, all the Neighbourhood flockt together to behold this prodigious business, and to inquire after the cause; the man of the House being much Amazed, and as a man Distracted with this unexpected Accident, before the Neighbours, searches into his boyling Furnace; where he found at the bottom of it, and all upon the Meat (which was a piece of Beef, a considerable quantity of yellow stuff, that appeared to be powder

undissolved; to the view of which, they called a Neighbour, an Apothecary, to give his judgment on it, what he thought it must be; he taking a careful view of it, declared that it was yellow *Arsenick* (which we commonly call *Ratsbane*.) Immediately they had recourse to an able Physitian for directions how to preserve the lives of the poor People and Infants that were thus designed to slaughter by some Accursed Monster of Man-kind, whose malice was not terminated to the usual bounds of personal Revenge, but (like the Devil) would practice his hatred upon Man-kind, for he could not be ignorant that this Broath was not for one particular Person, or Family, but for many; and therefore must think to Murder a multitude at once. The Physitian prescribes them to drink Oyle, or take pieces of Butter in great quantity, as the best Antidote to mollifie the corroding quality of the Poyson, and prescrib'd a Drink for the allaying the Thirst, and opposing the Poyson.

Great Inquiry hath been made by the Neighbourhood at the Victualling-house, what suspicious persons had been there that Morning, but the Family being all afflicted with the same disaster, and the man of the house much distracted to behold so sad event upon his Neighbours and his own Family, was not capable of making an answer what person or persons it should be: One while they suspected two strange men that came in to drink a pot of drink and were gone on a sudden; others are jealous of some Women that had been formerly at the house; but none can determine; and therefore it is desired, if any Apothecary, in, or about the City, hath sold *Arsnick* to any suspicious person, of late, that they would give some intimation to the said Mr. *Emson*, or any of his Friends, that so discovery may be made by farther inquiry into this horrid Act, for the preventing such a mischief for the future.

The persons, whose Servants it fell heaviest upon, were one Mr. *Colborn*, an able, honest person which keeps some scores of persons at work, and hath above 16 infected with this Poyson, who belonged to him.

Another was the Family of Mr. *Murrant*, an honest pains-taking man, and by Calling, a Broad-weaver, who hath not one in his whole Family that is not Infected, but himself, of which sad, doleful spectacle, the Relater was an eye and ear witness.

Many more there be which would be too tedious here to relate; there is also a woman with Child, which is in danger to loose one, or both their lives.

It doth appear that this hath been some premeditated design, and was not limited to this particular fact at the Victuallers: A work-man belonging to the aforesaid Mr. *Colborn* had a potion of this Poyson conveyed into his Bottle of drink which he used to carry with him when he went to work, and had this effect; that for several days his sickness was so great, that he was forced to keep his Bed, which his Wife perceiving, and wondring what might be the cause, observing his Sickness and Drought increased, the more he drank out of that Bottle; last *Saturday* she broke it, wherein she found at the bottom of it, some of the same kind of stuff that was found at the bottom of the boyling Furnace: But not apprehending any such design, past it over with some wonder what it should be, it looking (as she phrased it) like the yellow stuff that comes out of a Crab-fish, or that yellow which Dyers use to Dye with.

By all which we may see how dangerous a Creature Man is, when left to the leadings of the Devil, who was a Murderer from the beginning.